

Chapter 1: Introduction

The Town of Rolesville, a community that maintains and celebrates its small town heritage and character as it enters the 21st Century, has prepared this Open Space and Greenways Master Plan in order to protect the natural and cultural resources that community residents value most. There are three principal goals of the plan: 1) to identify parcels and corridors of land that are in need of protection and conservation measures; 2) to establish a comprehensive approach that will link greenspace lands and corridors to residential, commercial, institutional and central business areas of the community; and 3) to define a concise set of strategies for protecting and conserving these corridors and at the same time developing public use facilities that would provide residents with access to these lands and corridors.

If the goals of this program are met, Rolesville will have achieved success in enhancing the small town character and charm that is the hallmark of the community. Perhaps most importantly, protecting greenspace that is linked can support natural functions that are important in sustaining a high quality of life for residents of the community.

This Open Space Plan has been prepared to be consistent with a larger comprehensive Open Space Plan for Wake County. The County launched its open space planning efforts in 1999 to preserve natural and cultural landscapes. The County has encouraged and supported the preparation and adoption of municipal open space plans to ensure that there is continuity across jurisdictions. In order to comprehensively evaluate land in Wake County, each municipal government was asked to prepare its own open space plan. Because the character of the land within a municipal area helps define the character of a town, these individual assessments are viewed as critically important for the protection of resources and the way of life throughout the County. Further, the County adopted the following definition for open space to ensure a functional relationship between municipal plans and the county's open space program:

"Open space is a functional system of natural and cultural resources protected and maintained for the benefit of residents, businesses, and visitors."

The County's Open Space Program began with a focus on four key

Purpose

Consistency with Wake County Program

watersheds within the County: Falls Lake, Neuse River, Swift Creek and Harris Lake. This initial plan was adopted by County government and has led to the passage of a \$15 million bond referendum and the establishment of Partners for Open Space and the Environment (POSE). Wake County is currently engaged in a comprehensive open space planning effort that will tie together each of the twelve municipal plans.

As Wake County continues to grow in the 21st Century, it is hoped that these efforts of planning for the protection and conservation of open space will ensure that future generations will have access to the special landscapes and waterways that are unique to the County. Preserving and protecting these resources will also enhance the quality of life for future residents and ensure that Wake County is one of the great places to live, work and raise a family.